

October 11, 1956

Dear Luca:

Looking over my correspondence, I was shocked to see I have been sitting for two months on your ms. on transduction. I am sorry to have been so preoccupied, but even such pleasant occasions as visits from Latarjet and Mgnl are among the reasons.

I find that I don't really have very much constructive to add to your analysis, that any other models of interchange of fragment with chromosome simply don't lend themselves to realistic simplification. I would recommend that you go ahead with your present version, but if you can afford to wait some while longer, I will have some suggestions about making the argument clearer to the usual reader of American Naturalist. (Which would include myself!) If agreeable to you, I would like to send in my game for calculating the sequences (i.e. what was in MGB) as a companion article.

Unfortunately, I have been obligated since 1953 to write an article on recombination genetics for Bacteriological Reviews, and as a personal obligation to Perry Wilson I have to do that this fall. This was supposed to have been my Eli Lilly Award lecture! but it will be of somewhat broader scope. I hope I may refer to your mathematical model. In many ways this is an unfortunate time for a review, in view of the uncertain immediate development from Jacob's experiment, but at least it may be possible to lay down some perspective.

The remaining questions (which we must both feel guilty about) is our book. I am really waiting for you to contribute one single chapter in sufficiently finished form to go ahead with. If it happens we are really never going to do this, we should decide that soon, and relieve Freeman and ourselves of the protracted embarrassment. If we are going to write, we should get busy. One trouble is, of course, the vast scope of the topics, but this is why 2 authprs are a help, and I think it is more important to get even some inadequate chapters written, and then polished up, than to remain terrified at the task.

No very spectacular developments here; I am spending a fair amount of time myself on L-forms of E. coli K-12 strains, which we have more or less succeeded in propagating. So far, no indication of any new mechanisms, e.g., in attempts at F- x F- crosses in the L-form stage, or at dna-transductions.

Esther and I are hoping we can see you at the Ciba meetings but have still not worked out the finances. Our plans for Australia are fairly definite: we will leave the US for Melbourne and stay there about June 1 - Sept. 1, and are hopeful of returning via Milan to spend a week to ten days with you, if this is possible, about Sept. 10-20.

How are the little one(s) coming?

Yrs.

